

MASON'S

Coin Collectors'

HERALD

VOL. II.

MARCH, 1881.

No. 4.

HISTORY OF U. S. COINAGE.

—AND—

Laws relating to Coins and Coinage, from 1792 until 1880.

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

(Continued from Dec. Number 1880.)

8. SECTION TWENTY—Section 20 of this act provides that dollars, cents, and mills, the silver dollar being the only unit, *shall be the money of account in the United States; and that all proceedings in courts shall be kept and had according to this regulation.*" They have been so kept since 1792.

9. SECTION THIRTEEN.—This section provides that silver coins of the United States shall have 1485 parts silver and 179 parts alloy, which shall be copper, making 1664 parts. The alloy under the laws of 1837 and 1873 would be only 148.50 instead of 179, making 1633.50 parts instead of 1664, $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains in each dollar less alloy than originally in the silver coins, but leaving the pure silver precisely the same.

THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 9, 1793. (1 STATUTE, P. 300.)

The constitution not only imposed upon Congress the duty to coin money and to regulate the value of what they coined, but also to regulate by law the value of foreign coins in the United States, so that they, also, might be legally used by the American people. The act of February 9, 1793, was passed to regulate the value of foreign coins. Let it not be overlooked that the United States silver dollar is the unit of the money of account by which these foreign coins, whether of gold or silver, are valued. The relation established by the law of 1792 between gold and silver gives in the law of 1793, the following values to foreign coins:

VALUE OF FOREIGN COINS.

ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE GOLD COINS.

The law of 1793 made 27 grains of British or Portu-

guese gold of their standard fineness equal to one dollar of American money of account.

The British sovereign or pound sterling then contained, and now contains, 113 grains pure gold and 123.274 grains British standard gold. By dividing 123.274 by 27 we obtain the value of the British sovereign in American money under the laws of the United States of 1792 and 1793, which was \$4 56 57.

The American gold dollar, though then not existing, was valued at 27 grains standard gold, being 24.75 grains gold and 2.25 grains alloy, making 27 grains.

Under the laws of 1837, 1849, and 1873 the American gold dollar was, and is, 25.8 grains American standard gold. 123.274 grains divided by 25.8 grains give as the value of the British sovereign in our money of account under these laws \$4.86.56, just 30 cents more upon each sovereign than the former valuation in the United States.

VALUATIONS OF FRENCH AND SPANISH GOLD COINS, UNDER THE LAW OF 1793.

French and Spanish gold coins were valued in the money of the United States at $27\frac{2}{3}$ grains of their standard gold to one dollar of our money of account, a difference of $\frac{2}{3}$ of a grain between this coin and English gold coin, because the English was to that extent the finer.

The Spanish silver dollar, when weighing 415 grains of Spanish standard silver, was made equal to an American silver dollar, then containing 416 grains American standard silver and $371\frac{1}{4}$ grains pure silver,

French crowns were a dollar and ten cents.

(To be continued.)

MINT DROPS.

To Mechanics.—Why labor five years when you can get a good trade at once for a dollar.

(Solution.—Swap a Standard dollar for a "Trade.")

EDITORIAL EXCURSIONS.

No. 6.

SOUTHWARD we sped over the P. W. & B Railroad to the monumental city, leaving this city January 11th, to attend the second coin sale held at Seemuller's Rooms, South Charles Street. We found a great change in numismatic matters in Baltimore to the credit side of the Science. After spending a few hours with Nicholson, McKensie, Jamison, Binion, Mann, and a few others, we started for the auction rooms in the midst of a heavy snow storm. Upon arrival at Seemuller's we found but few collectors owing to the severe storm; but the number of attendants at the sale soon increased and the first night's sale concluded successfully. The second night's sale was a surprise to us in attendance and prices realized; the audience being limited to the full capacity of the room and the coins, &c., well competed for. Seemuller is a first class auctioneer, and we attribute the success of sales in Baltimore to liberal advertising and an able salesman. During our visit to Baltimore we had a pleasant interview with McKenzie, Bergh, Massamore, Burleigh, Graner, Patterson, Garrett, Mann and others; securing while in the city an 1856 U. S. Dollar, 1798 and 1800 Dimes, 1852 Half Dollar, 1799 and 1793 Cents, and a few pieces of Colonial and Paper money, we viewed Old Town with feelings akin to meeting an old time friend after a long separation. In 1844 the writer resided on Baltimore Street, near High Street—just over the bridge, and here we first met Dr. DeBonville, the famous antiquarian and public lecturer, who appeared in Masonic Hall, St. Paul Street, and with whom we spent many happy hours.

To change the subject, we report the *Numismatic Society* in a flourishing condition and coin collectors multiplying rapidly. Six new dealers in Baltimore; among them "Brady the Book Man," who told us he had been out of coins for many years and now commenced again. We bought a statuette of Washington and some early American imprints of Brady the bookseller (of ye Shakespeare bnst,) and regretted that he did not have coins to offer, as we called expressly to buy a few, as the Boston Journal of Numismatics had stated that Brady was in coins again. In conclusion, we would say that our Baltimore visit furnished a number of incidents for future use and provided us with a few good coins, books, autographs and early newspapers.

(To be continued.)

A visit to New England will appear in No. 1, Vol. III.

S. H. & H. CHAPMANS' COIN SALE.
MARCH 2d, 1881.

A catalogue of the above sale (to take place in New York city,) has been received and its glossy exterior and gilt edge title leads us to examine the contents, and here are some of the curiosities of numismatic literature found within its pages,

Lot 119.—"Almost very fine."

" 162.—"Exceedingly seldom."

" 225.—"Full bust in gown."

" 229.—"Bust in wig and gown."

" 424.—"Hasetine. Nos. 15, 16, 28, 39, 40 and 40½. Scarce, different, very fine."

Lot 435.—"Foreign Postal Cards, unused, 1 used"

" 474.—"Ancient Peruvian idol. H. of vampire bat."

The brothers Chapman must be more careful of the contents and less particular about the binding of their catalogues. It is "exceedingly seldom," or, to use Webster's definition, "very much" seldom that we find such glaring errors as in the catalogue of March 2d, now before us. "Almost very fine" is splitting hairs with a vengeance, and "Full bust in gown" is laying it on thick, while "Bust in wig and gown" is laying it on thicker. Lot 424 is a puzzler to the initiated, and will cause considerable wonder; but we will correct this item and say the lot refers to "Confederate notes" as being for sale, and not the gentlemanly dealer, as many would suppose. Lot 474—"H. of vampire bat" is a problem beyond our comprehension. It may be intended for the *hair* of the bat, or the *head*, or the *hand*, or the *ham*, or the *haven*, or the *heel*, or the *heart*—but we give it up. We would also say that our worthy brothers should know that *three* pieces of the Provisional base money of Honduras 1862 does not make a complete set, as stated in "Lot 9." We have seen the 1 Peso frequently. All dealers are apt to make mistakes in cataloguing coins, but it would be well to preserve good syntax and avoid overdoing the English language. We shall be happy to execute bids for our patrons at this sale, if this issue of *Herald* reaches them in time to send for catalogues.

BALTIMORE COIN SALE.

Monday Night, March 7th, 1881.

Commencing at 7 o'clock.

A general assortment of American, European and Ancient Coins, Medals, &c., including some rare and fine pieces will be offered at public sale on the above date, at the Auction Rooms of Wm. Seemuller, No. 11

South Charles Street, Baltimore. Catalogued by Jos. B. Burleigh, Jr.

Collectors and Dealers desiring catalogues will please address Joseph B. Burleigh, Jr., 41 Lexington Street, Baltimore, or Mason & Co., 113 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia.

LANCASTER COIN SALE.

New York city must look to its laurels, or the lively cities of Lancaster and Baltimore will snatch a few of them from her numismatic brow. A coin sale was presented for the first time in Lancaster (this State) "At the Auctioneers"—wherever that was—on the 28th of February.

The catalogue is by Chas. Stiegerwalt, and for a first attempt is exceedingly well prepared. A fair lot of rare pieces is judiciously scattered through an interesting variety of American and Foreign coins and medals, while a number of Indian relics and gems add interest to the sale. Success to Stiegerwalt and Lancaster numismatians.

BALTIMORE COIN SALE.

Dr. G. W. Massamore had another sale at Seemuller's Auction Rooms, on the 22d and 23d instant, which like the preceding sale was well attended and a success pecuniarily.

PHASES OF COIN COLLECTING.

BY A NOVICE.

First Phase:

Some coppers—a thought—
Buy more!
Get mixed and caught—
A lead four.

Second Phase:

Buy drawers—a book—
The best!
Cleanse coins—mistook—
Know less!

Third Phase:

A "coin sale"—great loss—
Disrupt!
Bad luck—remorse!
Bankrupt!

FROM NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS.

Judging by the number of pounds Beaconsfield gets from the publishers of his new book it must be a sterling work.—*Galveston News*. Most Americans think it a dollarons book.—*PHILADELPHIA NEWS*. It really is a cents-ible volume. Fifteen cents-ible in this country,

—*Norristown Herald*. But yet it doesn't create the cents-ation that was expected.—*Pottsville Journal*. You are having considerable fun at the book's ex-pence, —*Harrisburg Telegraph*. Done up in a greenback we should not refuse the legel tender of such a volume.—*West Chester Republican*.

Gentlemen.—Why will you be, "penny wise and pound foolish?" The number of "pounds" Beaconsfield gets, refers to the weight of paper wasted at the publishers expense. Dont be too centsitive and deny this cententions assertion!

SUBSCRIBERS TO VOL., III.

Every subscriber to the third volume of the *Herald* will be presented with our new "Coin Priced Buying, and Selling Catalogue." This catalogue is a very handy book, presenting in parallel columns the buying and selling values of coins, &c. We also send each subscriber an United States Mint medal (gilt, size 26, which has retailed at 50c; also all other publications we issue during the period of subscription. The price of subscription is one dollar in advance, and all other publications free to subscribers only.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The following subscribers are entered in our books for volume third of the *Herald*, viz:

J. W. Aulick,	Geo. F. Ralph,
T. W. Larsen,	M. G. Hill,
Prof. C. Maupin,	Ferguson Haines,
G. W. Gill,	J. A. Giles,
H. B. Bradbury,	S. K. Hartzfeld,
W. H. Nevil,	Wm. R. Mitchell,
Edward Maris, M. D.	C. E. Wolff,
W. E. Woodward,	R. P. Patterson,
J. E. Bull,	W. F. Greaney,
C. M. Hawkins,	Sam'l. C. Watson, (Club of 6.)
J. L. Riday,	Jno. A. Leas,
F. H. James,	A. J. Brueggerman,
J. L. Smith,	D. T. Morgan,

COIN SALES.

Joseph B. Burleigh, Jr., will make his first coin sale in Baltimore, on the seventh instant, at the popular Auction Rooms of Wm. Seemuller, No. 11 South Charles Street. Mr. Burleigh has a very good collection to offer, and a very interesting series of the different American Colonials, and other choice pieces.

We will forward catalogues and excecute bids for any of our patrons upon application.

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH, 1881.

E. MASON, Jr., - Editor and Proprietor.

QUARTERLY

TERMS:—\$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

NUMISMATIC CURIOSITIES.

HIGH PRICES FOR RARE COINS AND MEDALS—A SILVER DOLLAR VALUED AT \$1,000.

SOMEbody recently started a false report that the American silver dollars coined in 1878 were worth \$2 each, in consequence of their scarcity and the efforts of coin collectors to secure them. The result was that dealers in coins were deluged with offers to sell specimens of that coin and with inquiries as to whether the report was true. Some time ago a similar story was circulated with reference to the coinage of cents in the United States Mint in 1814. It was alleged that in that year there was a dishonest workman, who was detected in the act of stealing a quantity of gold. In order to screen himself from punishment and dispose of the evidence of his crime, he hastily threw his stolen gold into a crucible of molten copper that he was passing. The story ran that the workman's secret had become known, and that the pennies of 1814 were being bought up to extract the gold from them.

Some idea of the extensive interest taken in the collection of coins and medals may be gathered from the fact that in the year 1880 there were thirty-seven sales of coin collections in the city of New York alone. The total value of the sales was about \$50,000. When to this is added the sales by regular dealers the total value of the sales of coins and medals foots up \$100,000 a year.

The traffic is so extensive that there is a distinct market value for every rare coin, and even difference in price for different stages of preservation. The wear and tear of ages reduces the value of a coin because the distinctness of the impression becomes defaced. Thus it not infrequently happens that one impression of a coin may be worth twice as much as another impression of the same coin.

Looking over a large collection the other day, the reporter asked: "What is the oldest coin you have?"

Here is an Aegina coin dating 700 years before Christ. It is a didrachma, and was a very common Greek coin. It is worth about \$6.

"Only \$6, for so much antiquity? How is that? Does not a coin become more valuable according to its age?"

"By no means, unless it is rare and in demand as old. Many old coins are comparatively plentiful. Here are coins at least 2,000 years old that can be bought for 75 cents, \$1, or \$2."

"How do you know they are genuine?"

"By the same tests that manuscripts and traditions and historical facts of all kinds are authenticated. There are societies not only in New York, but in Philadelphia, Boston, Pittsburgh, and other places, where they make a study of these things. There is no more trouble in authenticating an ancient coin than any other object of antiquity.

"Have you any specimens of the widow's mite, spoken of in Scripture?"

"Yes; they are not very scarce. Here is a coin issued by Pontius Pilate."

"You have never found any of the silver pieces for which Joseph was sold?"

"No, there would be no means of indentifying them, because they were not coined or stamped. The silver for which Judas betrayed his Master was coined money. The progress of the art of coining is a fair index of the progress of the ages. First there were only rude stamps on chunks of silver or other metal. Then the stamps were made larger, but no attempt was made to fill out the mould. The more modern coins are perfect all over, the ornamental part covering the rim as well as the faces. Some of the medals that have been coined to commemorate various events are most beautiful specimens of die cutting. There is naturally more scope for the artist to produce a design on a medal. Here is a beautiful medal struck in 1830 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Belgium. There is one of 1637. The subject is the siege of Breda in the Netherlands. Here is a double crown with the portrait of Ferdinand III, and his wife. The original value was \$2, it is now worth \$15."

"What are the chief coins of the United States that are worth more than their face value?"

"The silver dollars of 1794, with flowing hair, is worth \$15. The silver dollar of 1804 is worth \$200 to \$700. The silver dollar of 1838 is worth \$15. The half dollars of 1794 are worth \$25; of 1796, \$50; and 1797, \$10; of 1836, with milled edge, \$2. An original half dollar struck by the Confederate States in 1861 is worth \$200. The quarter dollar of 1797 is worth \$1; of 1823 and 1827, \$15. The twenty-cent pieces of 1877 and 1878 are worth \$1.50 each. The dimes

of 1796 are worth 50 cents; of 1797, 1798, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1804, are worth \$1 each. In some cases there have been different issues of the same coin in the same year. One issue may be a rarity, and the other issue may be plentiful. The only way to determine the value is to see what a piece will sell for. Of half dimes, an issue of 1794 is worth \$1; of 1796, 1797, 1801, 1803, and 1805, \$1 each. The most valuable half dime is of the issue of 1802, which is worth \$12.75. Three cent silver pieces from 1863 to 1868 are worth 25 cents each. Those of 1873 are worth 50 cents each."

"How about the famous liberty pennies?"

"There are many varieties, and their value varies from 10 cents to \$10, according to the perfectness of the stamp. There are several kinds of the issue of 1793. One has long flowing hair, and the reverse has a chain with thirteen links. Another kind has a liberty cap and a wreath on the reverse. Another kind has a liberty cap and wreath of different device. The rarest nickel penny is the eagle of 1856, which is worth 50 cents. The newspapers made so much fun of the device that it was withdrawn from circulation very soon, and is now scarce. The most valuable half-cent is the issue of 1796, which is worth \$5. The half-cent issues of 1836, 1843, 1847, and 1852 are worth \$2, each. The half-cent issues of 1831, 1841, 1844, and 1846 are worth \$1 each. The half cents of 1840, 1842, 1845, and 1848 are worth \$1.50 each."

"How about American gold pieces?"

"Many are worth more than their face. The \$20 of 1849 is worth \$50. All the \$10 gold issues from 1795 to 1801 are at a premium of from 50 cents to \$2. Most of the \$5 gold pieces from 1795 to 1807 are at a premium of 25 cents to \$1. The price varies according to the coinage, with the large or small eagle used in the Mint in those years. One stamp of \$5 gold coin of 1815 is worth \$25. A \$3 gold piece of 1875 is worth \$4. Many of the quarter eagles are at a premium of 50 cents to \$1. A \$1 gold piece of 1875 sells for \$2."

"What is the most valuable modern coin?"

"It is a Confederate States silver dollar, which is valued at \$1,000. There were only a few of these coins struck. The Confederate Government had the dies made, and a few coins were struck at the New Orleans Mint for the inspection of the Confederate officials. They found, however, that they had no silver, and no more were coined. Jeff Davis says that he had one of these coins on his person when he was captured, but some one took possession of it—he does not know who. Possibly it may be in circulation yet as a genuine coin

of the United States. One side of the coin was in fact made with a regular die used in the New Orleans Mint to strike off United States silver dollars. The other side was specially devised for the purpose. The legend reads: 'Confederate States of America.' There is a shield, with bars and seven stars, surmounted by a liberty cap. The shield is enclosed by a wreath composed of cotton and sugar stalks."

"If this is worth \$1,000, it would pay better to counterfeit it than a genuine coin?"

"No; a counterfeit would be easily detected."

"Then as a matter of fact one of the most recent coins is worth very much more than the oldest coins you have?"

"Yes; here is a Cromwell shilling that is only worth \$10. Here is an Athens tetradrachm which is worth only \$10, though it is 3,000 years old. Here is one about 500 years older, worth \$15."

"How about political coins?"

"There are some very curious ones that are celebrated, like the English coin that gave rise to the couplet Cooing and billing like William and Mary on a shilling. The most celebrated in the history of American coin is the series that was issued to signalise the opposition to and support of the United States Bank in Jackson's time. Both the friends and opponents of Andrew Jackson issued coins, and some of the devices and inscriptions were very funny. Similar coins were issued in Van Buren's time. All these things are valuable in forming an estimate of the height of political feeling at that time."

"What are the most valuable collections in New York?"

"The Numismatic Society has a very large collection, which is kept very close. A number of members have collections of value."

Coin collectors are not necessarily wealthy men. Many are clerks or schoolboys whose spare change is constantly devoted to the subject. There is one man well known in New York as a collector of gold, who is said to have at least \$60,000 worth. Yet, if you were to see him in the street you might ask him to move your ash barrel if you wanted to hire a man for that purpose. Among the chief collections of New York city besides those of Prof. Anthon and the Numismatic Society are those of Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, A. C. Zabriskie, C. F. Bushnell, and R. L. Stuart. Among the noteworthy out-of-town collections are those of A. G. Parmelee and W. S. Appleton. F. H. James, L. Dohrmann, etc.—*N. Y. Sun, Feb. 7.*

REVIEW OF THE N. Y. SUN'S "Numismatic Curiosities."

BY THE EDITOR.

The surprising article quoted on pages 28 and 29 will cause a smile to spread over the reader's countenance at the ridiculously low prices quoted as the fictitious value of American coins. We have quoted with few exceptions such portions of the *Sun's* article as refer to American coins, and in looking over this erratic production (doubtless emanating from a dealer, who hoped to pick up an 1802 half dime for \$12.75.) we are led to the conclusion that coins have dropped in value considerably within a short period.

Let us examine a few points:

1st.—The "*C. S. A. Dollar.*" In justice to the aforesaid interviewed person, we must believe this a typographical error, and we correct it by stating this description refers to the *C. S. A. Half Dollar.*

2nd.—"Cooing and billing like Wm. and Mary on a shilling," would read better if "Phillip and Mary" had been substituted.

3rd.—Who is that man who looks like an ash gatherer, said to possess a collection of Gold coinage worth \$60,000? We have passed the collectors of New York in review before our minds eye, and from their genteel appearance and intelligent qualities we would suppose they are too well bred to appear on the streets in shabby dress and be taken for ash cart men. Perhaps the allusion is to Vanderbilt or Jay Gould. Let us have his name and address, by all means.

4th.—1794 U. S. Silver Dollars, at \$15.00 are cheap as steamboats at a cent a piece. 1823 and 1827 U. S. Quarter Dollars at \$15.00 are too cheap to be good—perhaps they are fabrications. We would like a few 23's and 27's at \$50.00 each. Half Eagle of 1815 at \$25.00—well "we should smile" to possess one at that price.

We present the article as a "specimen brick" of the writer's familiarity with American coins. Will our New York subscribers please give us the name of the dealer interviewed, and we will send him our latest Priced Catalogue "*Buying and Selling*"—to which he can refer when some other news reporter pumps him dry.

P. S.—We must apologize for not inserting this article under the *N. Y. Weekly Sun's* extraordinary communication of production (to be found on pages 28 and 29 of this issue,) as our printers have by some mysterious means, separated the two articles.—Editor.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

OF THE SILVER AND COPPER COLONIAL AND UNITED STATES
COINS IN THE MINT CABINET AT PHILADELPHIA, 1879.

BY E. M., Jr.

(Continued from December number 1880.)

HALF CENTS.

1793	Very fine.	1826	Dull proof.
1794	Uncirculated.	1831	Proof.
1795	Thin, poor.	1832	"
1796	Good.	1833	"
1797	Uncirculated.	1834	"
1800	Good.	1835	"
1802	"	1836	"
1803	"	1840 to '49 inc.	Proofs.
1804	"	1849	Small date, Proof.
1805	Uncirculated.	1850	Proof.
1806	"	1851	"
1807	Poor.	1852	"
1808	Good.	1853	"
1809	Uncirculated.	1854	"
1810	"	1855	"
1811	Proof.	1856	"
1825	"	1857	"

(To be continued)

ORIGIN OF "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

Col. A. Loudon Snowden in a letter to the "Editor of the Press," in this city, in 1879, has ascribed the origin of the motto, "*E Pluribus Unum*" to Colonel Reed, of Uxbridge, Mass., and states that it first appeared on a copper coin struck at Newburg, N. Y., where there was a private mint, and that the pieces struck are dated 1786. Col. Snowden also states that the motto appeared on several types of the New Jersey coppers of 1787. We believe there are several examples of New Jersey coppers in the U. S. Mint Cabinet of 1786, upon the reverse of which appears the motto "*E Pluribus Unum*," and nearly all the varieties of New Jersey coppers of 1786 bear this motto. The question is, did not this motto appear at a much earlier period than 1786, and if not, upon what coins from a private mint in Newburg in 1786 does this motto appear? We do not know of any of this character unless it is the Excelsior copper of 1786, bearing the arms of New York state; but this we have always considered a New York state piece. Will any of our readers furnish us with the earliest known use, in any connection, of the motto, "*E Pluribus Unum*."

TO SUBSCRIBERS TO VOL. III.

Buying and Selling Coin Priced Catalogue, U. S. Mint Medal and *Herald* will be mailed to each paid subscriber for the next volume of our paper. Each subscriber will receive the above with No 1, Vol. III, which will be a monthly publication.

SECOND BALTIMORE COIN SALE.

Massamore's second sale of coins, &c., came off January 11th and 12th, at Seemuller's rooms, Baltimore. The attendance on the first night was not large, owing to the snow storm prevailing, but the second night's attendance fully made up for this paucity of numbers, as the room was packed with bidders, and the sale very satisfactory. Here we wish to state that the auctioneer, Mr. Seemuller, is one of the best numismatic salesmen known to us; his wit, repartee and intelligence entertain without offence, while he squeezes from bidders the last cent out of each piece offered. A few of the hits and side speeches will illustrate the aptness of the auctioneer.

While selling a dime on a bid of "ten cents," he paused, looked mystified and said: "Gentlemen, I cannot see through this business; Doctor Massamore pays me 10 per cent for selling, prints an expensive catalogue, sends it broadcast, spends his time and money profusely and here I am selling dimes for ten cents a piece!"

Again while selling a 1794 cent described as a "short bust," on which he had a bid of "five cents," Mr. Seemuller convulsed the audience by crying out: "Five Cents for a short bust! Well gentlemen, that would be a very short bust, indeed, for five cents." Upon one occasion, while he was anxiously waiting the return of a 1799 cent, which was being handed around, and about knocking down the coin, when a collector cried out, "Give us more time!" "Yes," said the genial auctioneer, "I will give you all the time you want, but remember my terms are *cash*!" The sale was a success.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE.

The February number of this interesting and high-toned publication has been received from the publishers in this city. As usual with this compendium of intellectual feasts, there is in this number something of great interest to antiquarians in an art article on "Museums." This number is beautifully illustrated and filled with choice and original contributions. We advise our readers to send \$3.00 to Mess. J. B. Lippincott & Co., 715 & 717 Market St., this city, and secure the present volume.

European Coin Speculation 1881.

Any gentleman of Antiquarian or Numismatic tastes, of temperate and economical habits wishing to join the undersigned on his "Summer Excursion" to Europe, (having control of \$1000 to \$1500,) will please address for particulars,

E. MASON, Jr.,
143 North Tenth Street, Phila.

PATRIOTIC NUMISMATISTS.

We love patriotism, and would go as far as the next numismatist to sustain it; but we cannot admire the "Red, White and Blue" coin sale catalogues that frequently appear in this city from near "Bunker Hill," with a Boston imprint on the front page. We can forgive Hartzfeld and Chapman for spending their "Philadelphia Money" in a foreign city for coin sale books on the grounds of patriotism, only; but when it comes to the use of patriotic sentences in describing coins for a public sale, what shall we say? "Cogan!" "Betts!" Stand up! which of you did this thing? Read in the catalogue of coin sale February 14th and 15th, (by Geo. W. Cogan & Co., Brooklyn,) on page 19, lot 306, the following description of the reverse of an 1866 Pattern 5 cent Nickel Piece—"Reverse, 5, Surrounded by the Stars and Stripes." Is this another *unique*, coming to the front, or is it only a pretty piece of patriotism on the part of Bro. Betts? We can hardly believe that Bro. Cogan (scion of a noble numismatic house) catalogued the aforementioned coin; because George knows the sun's rays, as a son raised by Edward Cogan should know them; but Betts—now we stick—has he presumed to fling the "Star Spangle Banner" over our nickel coinage? Let us have light on this subject—"Stars and Stripes" is a pretty patriotic conceit but "Stars and Rays" would come nearer the homely unadulterated truth.

Cincinnati, O., February 11, 1881.

Mason & Co.,

Dear Sirs:—The Numismatic Directory will be issued April 15. I shall publish the members of all numismatic societies entire, at home and abroad, and much other information from time to time that has never been compiled before. There is a great want of a medium that will have things in a nut-shell for general reference.

Respectfully,

R. W. MERCER.

Lancaster, March 1st, 1881.

Dear Sir:—I quote a few prices from sale in this city, Feb. 28, viz.:

1807 Half Eagle, fine, \$6.30; 1836 Dollar, very good, 8.75; 1855 Dollar, very good, 7.10; 1801 Half Dollar, good, 6.25; 1804 Quarter, very fair, 2.85; 1877, Twenty Cent, Proof, 3.85; 1793, Wreath broad head and leaves, 9.00; 1804 Cent, (Lot 153) 8.25; 1805 Cent, fine, 3.40; 1809 Cent, very good, 2.10; 1822 Cent, barely circulated, 2.01; 1793 Half Cent, fine, light color, 6.50; Oak Tree Shilling, nearly fine, 5.10.

Yours, Truly,

C. S.

SPLENDID ELECTROTYPES FOR SALE.

A few copies of the finest known original U. S. copper cents and half cents, and other pieces have been recently secured. We will send *postage free*, the following, viz:

1793, 1799, 1804, 1809 Cents	35 ets each
1793, 1796 Half Cents	25 " "
1802, 1831 and 1836 Half Cents	50 " "
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